

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CS, TBIO

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - INSECT ZOO

1. SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
INCLUDES AMONG EXHIBITS PERMANENT INSECT ZOO PRESENTING

LIVE INSECTS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD IN SIMULATED
HABITATS. FOREIGN AREA INSECTS ARE GATHERED IN VARIOUS
PARTS OF WORLD BY COOPERATING ENTOMOLOGISTS AND IMPORTED
INTO UNITED STATES UNDER PERMIT ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE. FOR CERTAIN DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS, PERMIT
LIMITS IMPORTS TO MALE SPECIMENS ONLY. UPON RECEIPT OF
SEALED SHIPMENTS, SMITHSONIAN ARRANGES FOR DEPARTMENT
AGRICULTURE TO INSPECT SPECIMENS AT OPENING.

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2. WITH BUG LIFE SPANS OFTEN RECKONED IN MONTHS AND BUG
BREEDING PROGRAMS OFTEN NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR DESIRABLE
SMITHSONIAN HAS NEED FOR REGULAR SUPPLIES FROM NATURAL
BREEDING AREAS. SHIPMENTS ARE MADE IN SMALL, SEALED, AND
NON-BREAKABLE CONTAINERS AND TRANSIT TIME SHOULD BE
OPTIMUM 5 DAYS WITH A WEEK AS MAXIMUM FOR SEALED
SURVIVAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. PHIL DEVRIES, A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AND
ENTOMOLOGIST AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN SAN JOSE, HAS

OFFERED TO COLLECT BUGS FOR THE INSECT ZOO IF WORKABLE
SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. SMITHSONIAN WOULD
PREFER TO HAVE SUCH SHIPMENTS POUCHED TO WASHINGTON WITH
TELEGRAPHIC NOTICE OF EXPECTED POUCH ARRIVAL DATE SO THAT
EXPEDITIOUS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTION CAN
BE ARRANGED BEFORE BUGS WOULD EXPIRE. SUCH SHIPMENTS
WOULD BE NO MORE FREQUENT THAN MONTHLY DURING COLLECTING
SEASON. DEVRIES HAS PERMIT DATA ON PERMISSIBLE TYPES
AND WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE THAT NO PROHIBITED INSECTS
WOULD BE SENT. IN ADDITION, PACKAGES WOULD BE ADDRESSED
WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LABELS BEARING EXPLICIT
HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.

4. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER
EMBASSY WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT AS DESCRIBED
ABOVE. VANCE

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